

ARIZONA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
 230 N 1st Ave, Suite 302A, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1723
 Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Contact: Dave DeWalt
 (800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Arizona’s cotton harvest had progressed to 16 percent complete by week’s end, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Arizona’s current cotton harvest is 1 percentage point ahead of the State’s 5-year average and previous year’s report. Seventy-nine percent of Arizona’s cotton crop had advanced to the bolls opening stage, which was again, well behind the State’s 5-year average of 93 percent. The crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with only 29 percent of the crop being rated as fair to very poor. Arizona’s alfalfa crop was also rated in mostly good to excellent condition, with none of the crop rated as poor or very poor. Alfalfa hay harvest continues to take place throughout Arizona on more than 75 percent of the acreage within the State, and according to reports, was winding down in northeastern counties. The largest portion of Arizona’s pastures and ranges were reported to be in fair condition, with only 22 percent of the State’s acreage rated in good to excellent condition. Despite recent negative trends regarding native forage production and nutritive value throughout the State, reports from southeastern counties stated that recent precipitation allowed for green-up in isolated areas. Contrastingly, reports from Apache and Navajo Counties stated that rangeland conditions continued to deteriorate as a result of inconsistent rainfall. Topsoil moisture levels remained mostly adequate, with 4 percent rated very short, 16 percent rated short, 79 percent rated adequate, and 1 percent rated surplus. Subsoil moisture levels followed a similar trend. Over the past week, measurable precipitation was lacking across much of the State with most areas receiving less than 0.10 inches. Despite the drying trend, isolated areas of northwestern Coconino County received nearly an inch of rain according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Given the lack of precipitation received throughout the week, drought conditions worsened when compared with that of the previous week’s U.S. Drought Monitor report. As of September 19, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that abnormally dry conditions (D0) enveloped 44 percent of the State, moderate drought (D1) covered 29 percent, severe drought (D2) decreased to 13 percent, and for the first time since September 2022, extreme drought (D3) was recorded and spanned 5 percent of the State’s total land area. Arizona remained free of exceptional (D4) drought. Temperatures have continued to cool throughout northern Arizona as autumn has begun. Overnight temperatures across northern, as well as mountainous counties, ranged from 30 to 45 degrees. Over the past week, daytime highs throughout Arizona ranged from the mid to high 60s in the White and San Francisco Mountains to over 100 degrees throughout southwestern regions of the State according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC).

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cotton				
Bolls opening.....	79	72	79	93
Harvested.....	16	14	15	15

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	7.0	7.0	5.5	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	4	4	9	6
Short	16	25	5	13
Adequate	79	71	84	79
Surplus	1	--	2	2
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	7	8	8	6
Short	6	15	5	13
Adequate	86	77	81	79
Surplus	1	--	6	2

NA – not available
 (–) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	--	--	7	3
Poor.....	--	--	3	3
Fair.....	9	16	12	16
Good.....	38	32	36	43
Excellent.....	53	52	42	35
Cotton				
Very poor.....	--	1	1	--
Poor.....	1	1	1	4
Fair.....	28	27	13	22
Good.....	29	38	46	51
Excellent.....	42	33	39	23
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	17	24	2	14
Poor.....	24	33	7	24
Fair.....	37	31	37	30
Good.....	21	12	35	24
Excellent.....	1	--	19	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero